

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 05061 061656Z

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SUBJECT: WORLD CONFERENCE OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR (WCIWY);
BELGIAN DELEGATION

REF: A. STATE 119806; B. STATE 129496

1. BELGIAN DEL TO INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S YEAR AT MEXICO CITY, JUNE 19-JULY 2 WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

- 1) MME. RITA DE BACKER-VAN OCKEN, MINISTER FOR NETHERLANDS CULTURE
AND FLEMISH AFFAIRS, CHIEF OF DELEGATION;
- 2) AMBASSADOR EDMONDE DEVER, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN;
- 3) MME. CLARIJS-PAUWELS, SPECIALIST ON FAMILY MATTERS;
- 4) MME. FOUCART, SPECIALIST ON WOMEN IN THE LABOR FORCE.

SUPPLEMENTARY MEMBERS WILL BE:

- 1) MME. STAELS-DOMPAS, SENATOR AND V.P. BELGIAN COMMITTEE FOR IWY;
- 2) MME. GOOR, SENATOR AND V.P. GELBIAN COMMITTEE FOR IWY;
3. MME. HERMAN-MICHELSEN, ASSISTANT CHEF DE CABINET, MINISTRY OF
JUSTICE AND CO-PRESIDENT OF BELGIAN COMMITTEE FOR IWY;
- 4) MME. BRUNFAUT, CO-PRESIDENT OF BELGIAN COMMITTEE FOR IWY.

ADVISORS WILL BE:

- 1) MR. (BARON) PATRICK NOTHOMB, BELGIAN UN DELEGATION;
- 2) MR. CARLOS BAUWENS, INSPECTOR GENERAL, UN AFFAIRS, FOREIGN
MINISTRY;
- 3) MR. BOSMANS, ATTACHE, CABINET OF MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN COMMERCE,
COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT;

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PAGE 02 BRUSSE 05061 061656Z

4) MME. D'OLIESLAGER, FOREIGN MINISTRY, COORDINATOR OF BELGIAN

DELEGATION;

5) SMET, BELGIAN COMMITTEE FOR IWY.

2. BIO ON MINISTER RITA DE BACKER-VAN OCKEN: BORN ANTWERP, 1923.

DEGREES IN PHILOSOPHY AND IN HISTORY AND LAW. SENATOR FROM ANTWERP SINCE

1971. COLLABORATED IN PRODUCING ENCYCLOPEDIA FOR WOMEN ("WINKLER PRINS

VOOR DE VROUW") AND EDITOR IN CHRISTIAN (CATHOLIC) WOMEN'S WORKERS

LEAGUE. MARRIED TO A DOCTOR, SHE HAS SEVEN CHILDREN. INTELLIGENT, A

CAREFUL POLITICIAN AND MODEST, SHE HAS BEEN AN EFFECTIVE ACTIVIST IN

WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND FOR THE FLEMISH WHO MAKE UP HALF OF BELGIUM'S

POPULATION. MINISTER DE BACKER WILL NOT STAY THROUGHOUT THE

CONFERENCE. SHE WILL BE SECONDED BY AMBASSADOR DEVER WHOSE BIO FOLLOWS

WHO WILL ASSUME CHARGE OF BELGIAN DEL.

3. BIO ON AMBASSADOR EDMONDE DEVER (PRONOUNCED DUH-VAIR): BORN IN

BRUSSELS, 1921. DOCTORATE IN LAW AND LICENSE IN PHILOSOPHY AND LETTERS.

FOREIGN MINISTRY SINCE 1945. HAS SERVED ABROAD AT LONDON (1949-52 AND

1955-59), LUANDA AS CONSUL GENERAL (1959-60), THE UN (1966-69) AND

HAS BEEN BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO STOCKHOLM SINCE 1973. AMBASSADOR DEVER

IS SINGLE. SHE IS THE HIGHEST RANKING WOMEN IN THE BELGIAN

FOREIGN SERVICE. SOPHISTICATED, SELF-CONFIDENT, BUT NOT

AGRESSIVE, SHE GETS ALONG WELL WITH AMERICANS. SHE SPEAKS

EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

4. POSSIBLE USEFUL WORKING-LEVEL CONTACT FOR US DEL WILL BE

MME. D'OLIESLAGER. YOUNG, FRIENDLY, INTELLIGENT CAREER OFFICER

AT FOREIGN MINISTRY WHO SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH. FIRESTONE

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